

US Patent Application No. 09/937,639

Docket No: No: 22529-201

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 104 (Cancelled)

105. (New) A computer-based text processor and display system for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a standard text written in a standard writing system of a natural language, the text processor and display system including:

a pronouncing-dictionary data-base in which word-shapes of the standard text are matched with information indicative of the pronunciation of said word-shapes,

a converter adapted to convert the standard text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts by adding information from the data-base to the standard text in the form of phonetic clues to the pronunciation of word-shapes in the standard text so that the non-standard processed texts differ one from another by the amount of said phonetic clues in each processed text, and

display means enabling the user to display the standard text and each of said processed texts.

106. (New) A computer-based text processor and display system for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a standard text written in a standard writing system of a natural language, the text processor and display system including:

a pronouncing-dictionary data-base in which word-shapes of the standard text are matched with information indicative of the pronunciation of said word-shapes,

a converter adapted to:

convert the standard text into a phonetically enriched text by adding phonetic information from said data-base to the standard text as phonetic clues indicative of pronunciation of word-shapes in the standard text, said enriched text thereby comprising the standard text with said phonetic clues therein, and

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convert said enriched text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts such that each of said processed texts comprises the standard text and some of the phonetic clues of the enriched text so that the non-standard processed texts differ from one another by the amount of said phonetic clues in each of said processed texts, and

display means enabling the user to display the standard text and each of said processed texts.

107. (New) A computer-based text processor and display system for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a standard text written in a standard writing system of a natural language, the text processor and display system including:

a pronouncing-dictionary data-base in which word-shapes of the standard text are matched with information indicative of the pronunciation of said word-shapes,

a homonym filter adapted to identify word-shapes in the standard text that are non-homophonous homonyms such that identical word-shapes have different pronunciations depending upon context in the standard text, and

a parser adapted to use the context in the standard text of each homonym identified by said filter to determine a probable meaning, and therefore a probable pronunciation, of each identified homonym,

a converter adapted to:

convert the standard text into a resolved text by adding phonetic markers to the standard text that are indicative of said determined probable pronunciation of each identified homonym in the standard text, the resolved text thereby comprising the standard text including said first phonetic markers,

convert said resolved text into a phonetically enriched text by including said phonetic markers from the resolved text to the standard text and by adding phonetic information from the data-base to the standard text as additional phonetic markers indicative of the pronunciation of word-shapes in the standard text that are not identified as said homonyms, said enriched text thereby comprising the standard text including both said phonetic markers from the resolved text and said additional phonetic markers, and

convert the enriched text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts, each of said processed texts comprising the standard text and some of the phonetic markers

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included in the enriched text so that said processed texts differ one from another by the amount of said phonetic markers from the enriched text included in each processed text, and

display means enabling the user to visually display the standard text and each of said non-standard processed texts with its phonetic markers so that the non-standard texts when displayed differ from one another by the amount of phonetic markers that are visible.

108. (New) The computer-based text processor and display system of claim 106 wherein:

the standard writing system is alphabetic and has homophonous homonyms in which word-shapes that differ by spelling have the same pronunciation, and

the converter is adapted to:

incorporate electronic markers in the enriched text and in at least one of the processed texts such that the electronic markers indicate the spelling of the word-shapes of the standard text that are the homophonous homonyms, and

re-convert the at least one processed text into the standard text by employing the electronic markers in the at least one processed text to determine the spelling of word-shapes of the standard text identified as the homophonous homonyms, thereby enabling re-conversion of the at least one processed text to the standard text.

109. (New) The computer-based text processor and display system of claim 105 wherein:

the standard text employs alphabetic letters and a letter order that accords with a conventional spelling system of the natural language,

the processed texts have the alphabetic letters and spelling of the standard text, and

the display means is adapted to make visible said phonetic clues in the processed texts as variations in the visual appearance of the letters of word-shapes in the processed texts as displayed.

110. (New) A method for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a standard text written in a standard writing system of a natural language, the method including the steps of:

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converting the standard text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts by including phonetic information from a pronouncing dictionary data-base as phonetic clues in the standard text so that (i) each processed text comprises the standard text with added phonetic clues indicating the pronunciation of the word-shapes of the standard text and (ii) each processed text differs from others of said processed text by the amount of said phonetic clues included therein, and

enabling the user to display the standard text and said processed texts so that the phonetic clues included in the processed texts are displayed.

111. (New) A method for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a standard text written in a standard writing system of a natural language, the method including the steps of:

converting the standard text into a phonetically enriched text by adding phonetic information from a pronouncing dictionary data-base to the standard text to generate said enriched text,

converting said enriched text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts by including some of said phonetic information from said enriched text into the standard text as phonetic clues to form each of said processed texts so that said processed texts differ one from another by the amount of said phonetic clues included therein, and

enabling the user to display the standard text and each of said processed texts so that said phonetic clues included in the processed text are displayed.

112. (New) The method of claim 110 wherein the standard text employs alphabetic letters and a letter order that accords with a conventional spelling system of the natural language, the method including the steps of:

employing a homonym filter to identify word-shapes in the standard text that are non-homophonous homonyms such that identical word-shapes in the standard text have different pronunciations depending on context in the standard text,

employing a parser to use the context in the standard text of each word-shape identified by the filter as the non-homophonous homonyms to determine a probable meaning of the non-homophonous homonyms, and therefore a probable pronunciation of the

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respective identified word-shape,

incorporating a phonetic clue indicative of the determined probable pronunciation of each word-shape identified as the homonym within at least one of the processed texts.

113. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the standard text employs alphabetic letters and a letter order that accords with a conventional spelling system of the natural language, the method including the steps of:

employing a homonym filter to identify word-shapes of the standard text that are homophonous homonyms which have the same pronunciation but different spellings depending upon meaning,

including electronic markers in at least one of the processed texts indicating the conventional spelling of respective word-shapes identified as the homophonous homonyms, and

re-converting the at least one processed text into the standard text by employing the electronic markers in the at least one processed text to determine the spelling of word-shapes of the standard text identified as the homophonous homonyms, thereby enabling re-conversion of the one processed text to standard text with the conventional spelling.

114. (New) The method of claim 110 wherein there are at least two processed texts, the method including the step of:

displaying the processed texts in succession so as to cause the clues of the displayed processed texts to appear to morph and change by virtue of the successive display.

115. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the standard text employs alphabetic letters and a letter order that accords with a conventional spelling system of the natural language, the method including the step of:

displaying the phonetic clues in at least one processed text as variations in the visual appearance of letters in the at least one processed text.

116. (New) A method for facilitating user familiarisation with word-shapes of a

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standard text of a natural language wherein the standard text employs alphabetic letters and a letter order that accords with a conventional spelling system of the natural language, and the method includes the steps of:

using a homonym filter to identify word-shapes of the standard text that are non-homophonous homonyms which have the same spelling but are pronounced differently depending upon context within the standard text,

using a parser to parse the standard text and to determine a probable pronunciation of each word-shape of the standard text identified as a said non-homophonous homonym,

converting the standard text into a resolved text by including in the standard text phonetic markers indicative of the determined probable pronunciation of each word-shape of the standard text identified as a said non-homophonous homonym,

converting said resolved text into a phonetically enriched text by including in the standard text (i) said phonetic markers and (ii) phonetic information from a pronouncing dictionary data-base in the form of additional phonetic markers, said additional phonetic markers being indicative of the pronunciation of word-shapes of the standard text that are not identified as said homonyms, said enriched text thereby comprising the standard text with all aforesaid phonetic markers therein,

converting said enriched text into a plurality of non-standard processed texts so that each of said processed texts comprises the standard text and some of the phonetic markers included in the enriched text so that the non-standard processed texts differ from one another by the amount of phonetic markers respectively included therein, and

enabling the user to display the standard text and said processed texts so that the phonetic markers included in the processed texts are displayed.